(b) if so, which are those three sections and how many companies have evinced interest in setting up private rail-lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Department's Contract for Accident Relief Crane

3994. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are seriously going to investigate Railway Department's contract for Accident relief crane (140 tonnes) with two companies *i.e.* United Kingdom's Cowans Shelton and Germany's Gottwald and dealing worth Rs. 132 crore during the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, by when it is going to investigate and whether Government have found anything wrong and unlawful in the contract agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On allegations of irregularities in the procurement of the above cranes in Parliament, it is stated that the then Minster of Railways Kum. Mamta Banerjee in 2000 had entrusted the detailed investigation into the entire affair to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). CBI after detailed investigations, did not find any irregularity in the procurement.

Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Rail-Line

†3995. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-laukaha Railway Lines gauge conversion under Samastipur division after its foundation laying ceremony by the then Minister of Railways and other two Ministers prior to Lok Sabha elections;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.